

The China Journal.

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號四十九年八十八百八千一英

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1888.

日九月初八年子戌

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

Shipping.

Steamers.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & FOOCHEW.

The Co.'s Steamship *Haitan*.

Captain Ashton, will be despatched for the above

Port on SUNDAY, the 16th Instant, at 9 a.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, September 13, 1888. 1522

THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR BANGKOK (DIRECT).

The Company's Steamer *Phra Chula Khan Kao*,

Captain A. BENSON, will be despatched for the above

Port on SUNDAY, the 16th Instant, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

YUEN FAT HONG, Agents.

Hongkong, September 13, 1888. 1523

FOR KOBE (DIRECT).

The British Steamship *Tartar*.

Captain BAILEY, will be despatched as above on

TUESDAY, the 18th Instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, September 13, 1888. 1524

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

The Co.'s Steamship *Taising*.

Capt. JACKSON, will be despatched as above on

TUESDAY, the 18th Instant, at 8 p.m.

This Steamer has superior First-class Accommodation, specially constructed to meet the requirements of tropical climates.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHERSON & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, September 13, 1888. 1524

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR SHANGHAI VIA AMOY.

(Taking Cargos & Passengers through rates for NINGPO, CHIEFOO, NEW-

CHIANG, TIENTSIN, HANKOW and Ports on the YANGTZE.)

The Co.'s Steamship *Mesuras*,

Captain NELSON, will be despatched as above on

TUESDAY, the 18th Instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, September 13, 1888. 1525

STEAM TO STRAITS AND BOMBAY.

(Calling at COLOMBO should indicate offer.)

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship *Kinged*.

This Steamer will leave for the above places on SATURDAY, the 23rd Inst., at Noon.

E. L. WOODIN, Superintendent.

Hongkong, September 13, 1888. 1526

Shipping.

Steamers.

STEAM TO STRAITS, COLOMBO AND BOMBAY.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship *Theran*.

This Steamer will leave for the above places on SATURDAY, the 16th Inst., at Noon.

E. L. WOODIN, Superintendent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong, September 13, 1888. 1523

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SYDNEY, MELBOURNE ANDADELAIDE.

(Calling at PORT DARWIN & QUEENSLAND PORTS, and taking through

Cargo to NEW ZEALAND, TASMANIA, &c.)

The Steamship *Guthrie*,

Captain CRAIG, will be despatched for the above

places on SATURDAY, the 22nd Inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, September 10, 1888. 1514

STEAM TO SHANGHAI.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship *Verna*.

This Steamer will leave for the above

place about 24 hours after her arrival with the outward English Mails.

E. L. WOODIN, Superintendent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong, September 6, 1888. 1491

STEAM TO YOKOHAMA, VIA NAGASAKI AND KOREA.

(Passing through the INLAND SEA.)

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship *Maiwa*.

This Steamer will leave for the above

places on or about the 20th Instant.

E. L. WOODIN, Superintendent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong, September 6, 1888. 1402

Sailing Vessels.

FOR NEW YORK.

The 33 L.I. Amer. Barque *Emma T. Cruse*,

Pendleton Master, will load here for the above Port, and

will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.

Hongkong, September 10, 1888. 1512

Business Notices.

J. MARINBURK, COLLEGE CHAMBERS,

BEGS to inform the Public that he has made GREAT REDUCTIONS IN PRICES OF FURNITURE AND UPHOLSTERING IN LATEST DESIGNS.

All the Work is made under My Supervision and I use the best Coverings, Plushes and Materials. Guarantee all the Work of best Workmanship.

Hongkong, May 22, 1888.

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Intimations.

STAG HOTEL.

NOTICE TO HOTEL KEEPERS, CLUBS, &c.

FOR SALE:

TWO ENGLISH BILLIARD TABLES, with BALLS, CUES, MARKING-BOARDS, &c., Complete.

A Very Handsome Set of BAR FIXTURES, quite new, Built of Solid Teakwood, hand-carved, and moulded, inlaid with PLATE GLASS MIRRORS.

Also, Several other PLATE GLASS MIRRORS; One TEAKWOOD BAR COUNTER, with Four PULL PUMPS, PIPES, &c.

Two Handsome STREET LAMPS, with strong Fancy METAL BRACKETS, suitable for HOTELS or other PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Also, SUNDRY other ARTICLES, suitable for HOTEL PURPOSES. Delivered on or after 1st DECEMBER, 1888.

The HOTEL is CLOSING, on account of the PROPERTY having been SOLD.

Apply J. COOK, Stag Hotel.

Hongkong, September 10, 1888. 1511

A RAMBLE THROUGH SOUTHERN FORMOSA.—By Mr. G. TAYLOR.

This Article, which has been reprinted from the *China Review*, contains one of the best Sketches of Formosan Life yet written. A few roughly-executed Woodcuts are included in the pamphlet.

May be had—Price, \$1—at MOSES LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.'s, and MESSRS. KELLY & WILSH, LIMITED, Hongkong; also, Mr. N. MOALE, Amoy.

Baxter's Celebrated 'Barley Bru' WHISKY.—\$7 per Case of 1 doz.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

Hongkong, July 18, 1884. 1187

Auctions.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

No. 401.

THE following Particulars of SALE of CROWN LAND by PUBLIC AUCTION, to be held on the Spot, on MONDAY, the 17th day of September, 1888, at 4 p.m., are published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART, Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Hongkong, 10th September, 1888. 1507

Particulars of the Letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on MONDAY, the 17th day of September, 1888, at 4 p.m., by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of One Lot of Crown Land, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years.

Particulars of the Lot,

No. of Registry No. 1.

Building Lot No. 61.

Mr. An.

2500 ft. 150 ft. 150 ft. 150 ft. 2500 ft. 150 ft. 150 ft.

ft. ft. ft. ft. ft. ft. ft. ft.

Notices to Consignees.

GLEN LINE OF STEAM PACKETS,
FROM LONDON, PENANG AND
SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship *Glenlyn*, having arrived
from the above Ports, Consignees of
Cargo by her and by the S.S. *Velocita*
from New York are hereby informed
that their Goods are being landed at their
risk into the Godowns of the Honkong and
Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.,
at Kowloon, whence delivery may be
obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before
noon To-DAY.

Cargo remaining undelivered after the
14th instant will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.
Consignees are also requested to present
all claims for damages and/or shortages not
later than the 22nd instant, otherwise they
will not be recognized.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, September 8, 1888. 1502

STEAMSHIP *JEMINAH*.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

CONSIGNERS of Cargo from London,
ex S.S. *Mouche*, from Antwerp, ex
S.S. Howard, from Havre, ex S.S.
Caprice, and from Bordeaux, ex S.S.
Marie, in connection with the above
Steamer, are hereby informed that their
Goods—with the exception of Treasure
and Valuables—are being landed and
stored at their risk at the Company's²
Godowns, whence delivery may be obtained
immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on, unless
intimation is received from the Consignee
before 11 a.m. To-morrow (Wednesday), the
12th Inst., requesting that it be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
the Undersigned.

Goods remaining unclaimed after WEDNESDAY,
the 19th instant, at noon, will be subject to rent,
and landing charges at one cent per packet per diem.

All claims must be sent to me on or
before FRIDAY, the 21st instant, or they
will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Agent.

Hongkong, September 11, 1888. 1517

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY, LIMITED.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND
SINGAPORE.

THE Company's S.S. *Tasman*, having
arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of
Cargo by her are hereby informed that their
Goods are being landed at their
risk into the Godowns of the Honkong and
Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., at
West Point, whence delivery may be obtained
immediately after landing.

Cargo remaining undelivered after the
10th instant will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Consignees are also requested to present
all claims for damages and/or shortages not
later than the 23rd instant, otherwise they
will not be recognized.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
the Undersigned.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, September 12, 1888. 1519

LITTLE JONES.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPION DOCK
COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHIPMASTERS and ENGINEERS are
respectfully informed that, if upon
their arrival in this Harbour, NONE of
the Company's FOREMEN should be at
hand, Orders for REPAIRS if sent to the
Head Office, No. 14, Plaza Central, will
receive prompt attention.

In the Event of Complaints being found
necessary, Communication with the Under-
signed is requested, when immediate steps
will be taken to rectify the cause of dis-
satisfaction.

D. GILLIES,
Secretary.

Hongkong, August 25, 1888. 1468

ROYALTY'S

KALYDOR

ODONTO

MACASSAR OIL

Wholesale and Retail Agents for China:
A. S. WATSON & CO., Shanghai. 964

1888. WINTER TIME TABLE. 1888.

THE STEAM-LAUNCH COMPANY,
LIMITED.

KOWLOON FERRY.

The Commodious Steam-launch
Pioneer, 1888, will from the 1st September, run
daily as a Ferry Boat between Pudding's
Wharf and Kowloon Point at the
following hours:

LEAVES KOWLOON. LEAVES HONGKONG.

6.00 A.M. 7.00 A.M.

8.00 " 8.15 "

8.40 " 9.15 "

9.40 " 11.00 "

10.30 " 12.25 P.M.

12.00 " 1.05 "

12.40 P.M. 2.05 "

1.50 " 4.05 "

2.20 " 4.30 "

4.15 " 5.05 "

4.45 " 5.35 "

5.20 " 5.05 "

5.50 " 5.35 "

6.20 " 7.10 "

6.50 " 7.40 "

7.25 " 8.10 "

NIGHT SERVICE NIGHT SERVICE

8.30 P.M. 9.00 P.M.

10.30 " 11.00 "

11.30 " 12.00 "

The above Time Table will be strictly
adhered to.

By Order, A. G. GORDON,

Secretary and Manager.

Hongkong, September 1, 1888. 1464

Intimations.

To-day's Advertisements.

1888.
THE STEAM-LAUNCH COMPANY,
LIMITED.

Launches always on hand for—
PICNIC, SHOOTING, BOATING, BATHING,
PRIVATE PARTIES, ETC., &c.

For Terms, apply to Company's Office :—

COURSES OF PEDDER STREET AND PRAYA.

Steam-launch.

"I O N E E R,"

To and from Kowloon.

SCALE OF FEES.

For each Trip. 10 Cents.

Children under 10 years. Free.

Second Class, (Chinese). 2 Cents.

Sedan Chairs, each. 10 Cents.

FOR TWO YOUNG LADIES. Apartments with Board. State Terms by Letter only to

A. B.
c/o China Mail Office.
Hongkong, September 14, 1888. 1535

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOTS POSTE FLANCAIS.

STEAM FOR

SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,
COLOMBO, PONDICHERY,

MADRAS, CALCUTTA, ADEN, SUEZ,

PORT SAID,

MEDITERRANEAN AND

BLACK SEA PORTS, ALEXANDRIA,
MARSEILLES, AND PORTS

OF BRAZIL, AND LA PLATA;

ALSO

LONDON, HAVRE, BORDEAUX,
DUNKIRK AND ANTWERP.

Sugar, Oil, Coffee and Tin.—JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.

Anton, German steamer, 303, E. Asperoo,
Pakhoi September 11, and Hoilow 13,
General.—WIELER & CO.

DEPARTURES.

September 14:—

Marie, for Haiphong.

Zambesi, for Saigon.

H. G. Johnston, for Keelung.

Bandler, for Singapore and Sourabaya.

Velez, for Chefoo.

Souchow, for Swatow.

Souchow, for Macao.

GENERAL MEMORANDA.

MONDAY, September 17:—

4 p.m.—Auction of One Lot of Crown
Land.

6 p.m.—Meeting of H.K. St. Andrews
Society in the City Hall.

TUESDAY, September 18:—

Goods per *Taihang* undelivered after
this date subject to return.

THURSDAY, September 20:—

Goods per *Frigg* undelivered after this
date subject to return.

FRIDAY, September 21:—

Noon.—Tenders for Erection of Sami-
tarium received by Naval Storekeeper.

SATURDAY, September 22:—

Noon.—Meeting of Shareholders of the
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd., at the
General Manager's Office.

4.30 p.m.—Auction of Four Valuable
Building Lots.

THURSDAY, September 30:—

Statement of Business with the Hongkong
and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., to be
sent in before this date.

FRIDAY, October 6:—

4 p.m.—Meeting of Shareholders of The
Panjum & Sungkieh Due Samantan
Mining Co., Ltd., at No. 9, Queen's Rd.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

OUR NEW SEASON'S
FLOWER AND VEGETABLE
SEEDS
ARE NOW READY.

Flower Parcels of 50 Packets, price, \$10.00

Vegetable " of 20 " " 5.00

Single Packets at list price.

SPECIAL FLORIST'S SEEDS.

In Pockets of six or more named varieties,
viz.—

CLOVE PINES—PANSIES—PHLOX—
HOLLYHOCKS—PORTULACA, VERBENA
AND PETUNIA.

MIGNONETTE MACHEL
(The New Variety).

PAIRED CATALOGUE ON APPLICATION.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

30th August, 1888. 1443

See The publication of this issue commenced
at 7.25 p.m.

TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL'.]

(Via Southern Line.)

THE ST. L. LEGER.

LONDON, 12th September, 1888.

Scabrooz.....First.

Chillington.....Second.

Zanzibar.....Third.

(Havas Agency.)

RESIGNATION OF M. CONSTANS.

PARIS, 4th Sept.

The Premier has written to M. Constans
that the Government considers that the
question he put on the 18th July to the
Chamber of Deputies about the game of 36
beasts implies that he resigns the functions
of Governor General.

THE MYSTERIOUS GENERAL.

PARIS, 5th Sept.

There is no positive news about General
Boulanger; many contradictory rumours
are being circulated about his journey.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE CHINA MAIL.

were added, viz., that there was good title to the ship and that she was free from incumbrances. With the learned author of "Smith's Contracts" I prefer to consider that that arrangement amounted to a new contract rather than do violence to a well-known rule of law, viz.—that a parol variation of a written instrument is inadmissible unless where there is an ambiguity. A formal agreement, however, was to be drawn up, which was not done, and a bill of sale for the conveyance of the ship was to be drafted. On the 16th April the *Estrella* was seized under a writ of attachment in a suit No. 18 of 1885, at the suit of Mr. Macgregor Smith, one of the plaintiffs in the abandoned Vice-Admiralty suit, who brought an action against Mr. Ortiz and two others. It was agreed between Mr. Rapp and Mr. Melby that the second instalment of the purchase money of the *Estrella* should not be paid until the vessel was freed from arrest, and the learned Attorney General in his argument admitted that they had undertaken to free the vessel from that seizure, whilst denying any such agreement or liability to free the vessel from any other person's claim. It seems now that the claims of Macgregor Smith and of John Henry Smith were of the same nature. The plaintiff states that on the 28th May, the defendant (of course by his agent or agents) informed him that the *Estrella* was released and that full security had been given to meet Macgregor Smith's claims and all other persons claiming or likely to claim against the vessel, and that the plaintiff might safely pay the second instalment of \$10,000 on the 28th May. The defendant, however, was arrested on the 28th June, and that full security had been given to meet Macgregor Smith's claims and all other persons claiming or likely to claim against the vessel. The plaintiff says that relying on the truth of those statements he (the plaintiff) paid the second instalment of \$10,000 on the 28th May, and on the 10th June, a further sum of \$5,000 and executed all documents necessary for the legal transfer of the ship. The plaintiff says those statements were untrue—as the defendant at the time he made them well knew—that the vessel was not released till the 16th June, that no security had been given to meet John Henry Smith's claims, and that the persons previously referred to as having claims against the ship. The defendant denies (a.) that he informed plaintiff of the release from arrest—but only that he had got an order for dissolution of the attachment; (b.) that he informed plaintiff on the 28th May, or at any other time that security had been given to meet any other claims than those of Mr. Macgregor Smith in suit 18 of 1885 (and c.) that he informed plaintiff on the 28th May that he might safely pay the \$10,000 and complete the transfer, but admits that on 10th June, when security was given, he stated that the vessel was then absolutely free from attachment or arrest, and that he made such statements knowing them to be untrue. He denies that he ever gave or undertook to give any security, or any security that would cover any claim of John Henry Smith. The defendant also says that Mr. Rapp, the agent for plaintiff, knew that there was a probability of some adverse claim being preferred by J. H. Smith and in respect of which an attempt might be made to attach or seize the said vessel, and that Rapp made special arrangements to have the vessel towed out of the waters of the Colony on the 16th June when she was again seized. The first question is as to the representations of 28th May. It is to be remembered that on or about 15th April it was agreed that no more money was to be paid until the vessel was free. Mr. Rapp says he had seen Mr. Caldwell and wrote this letter in consequence of that interview. He says he believes J. H. Smith's name was mentioned, but no claim had been made. On the 28th May Mr. Melby came to Mr. Rapp's office and said 'The *Estrella* is quite free and clear now, pay me the \$10,000.' Mr. Rapp then said 'What have you done with Blackhead Smith, when Melby assured him that John Henry Smith had received security and was satisfied.' Mr. Holmes says when the bill of sale was executed in his office he believed the ship was free, and that he had no notice before the execution of the bill of sale that the vessel was not released or that any action had been taken by Blackhead Smith, when Melby assured him that John Henry Smith had received security and was satisfied. Mr. Holmes says when the bill of sale was executed in his office he believed the ship was free, and that he had no notice before the execution of the bill of sale that the vessel was not released or that any action had been taken by Blackhead Smith. He adds Mr. Caldwell told me that he had authority to give security for any claim against the ship. Captain Kock corroborates Mr. Rapp as to the interview of Mr. Melby on the 28th May. He says—Mr. Melby said 'Rapp, you can pay me the dollars, everything is settled.' The *Estrella* is perfectly clear. He also said 'Blackhead Smith is perfectly satisfied.' This witness was intended to be Captain of the ship and was in charge of her for 10 days afterwards. Mr. Caldwell unfortunately has lost his diary of 1888 and he not the same means of recovering his memory as Mr. Holmes. He states, however, with reference to the 23rd May, that he wrote a letter to Mr. Holmes on the 27th, which was to the effect that the vessel would be released on the 28th, and he gives important evidence and produces a letter of Mr. Melby's of the 11th May to himself, referred to below, which bears on the subject and shows the anxiety of Mr. Melby to get the 2nd instalment of \$10,000 at that date. Although it was arranged that the security for releasing the ship was to be completed on the 28th May, Mr. Caldwell will not say that he told either Mr. Holmes or Mr. Rapp that the bond of security had not been given. As stated above on the 11th May Mr. Melby also wrote to Mr. Rapp for the \$10,000, saying 'the affair with MacG. Smith is settled as far as you are concerned, and no obstacles of any kind will be put in the way of the transfer of the ship. Under the circumstances I think I am justified in asking you to pay the 2nd instalment' whilst on the same day he wrote to Mr. Caldwell—'I want Rapp to pay me the \$10,000, and he will do so if you will write to Holmes to say the matter is in order. Of course it is in order—the bond merely having to be signed.' As to the letter of 11th May, Mr. Melby said in cross-examination, 'When Mr. Melby wrote that he knew no security had been given for the *Estrella*. That letter was a misrepresentation of existing facts.' It was then that he produced the letter to himself set out above, and said he did not write as he was asked to do. I think these letters show at the very least that Mr. Melby was capable of representing things

as actually done which were intended to be done, and I am of opinion that he did represent to Rapp on the 28th May that the ship was free and ready for the arrest, when in fact she was not, and he knew she was not, whatever he might expect. For he himself was to give a bond and provide money before she could be freed. Indeed he wrote again after getting the cheque as if it were so. This was a material misrepresentation inducing Mr. Rapp to part with \$10,000. I am also of opinion that on the 28th May, and it is beyond doubt that at a later date, Mr. Melby did represent that security had been given against any claim of John Henry Smith. There is considerable confusion in Mr. Rapp's testimony as to the time the money was said to have been given to Mr. Caldwell for the security; I think he is mistaken as to the money having been paid or represented as paid, but I relieve the testimony of Mr. Holmes, Mr. Rapp, and Captain Kock on the main fact that J. H. Smith's supposed claim was represented as secured, and from what occurred subsequently I cannot think but that Mr. Melby forged what he said. He was clearly prepared to guarantee Mr. Rapp against such claim. Nothing could be said than his promises on that head. But he actually forgets whether or not he went to Mr. Rapp's office on the 28th July, and of course what occurred. However, he considered his people were morally responsible for the Bill of Sale, payment of \$30,000 they believed and had been assured that the ship was quite free from arrest, and had been secured against possible claims of J. H. Smith. They also say they did not know of any lawyer's demand—or that the claim of J. H. Smith had taken a complaint form when they went to dispatch the judgment for them with costs.

Mr. Francis—The costs in the other case would not have been nearly so much if this case had not been disputed, if they had not refused to recognise the facts as to responsibility.

His Lordship—If you like you may argue that point any other day. In the meantime I stay execution.

HONGKONG FIRES.

The *Singapore Free Press* says—

"As we open our Hongkong exchanges there is one feature to which we have been accustomed to find that there is a feeling of unsatisfactory incompleteness, if a glance through the columns does not encounter it in each paper. The heading 'Serious Fire in Hongkong,' is that item which a Hongkong editor can always rely upon as a permanent detail in his journalistic menu. A Hongkong paper without 'Another Serious Fire' would be like a dinner without potatoes, and as soon as our eye catches the phrase 'last night's fire,' we know that the paper is all right and that the staff have not neglected their duty. The foreman printer perhaps keeps a few ordinary phrases standing, such as, 'protracted struggle with the devouring element,' 'fierce battle with the flames,' 'scene of last night's outbreak,' 'had a high wind blowing,' and so on, to save a little extra time in setting up. But to speak seriously, Hongkong has long been earning for itself a 'bad eminence' as a breeding-place for fires. One of our northern contemporaries is metaphorical, but not exaggerating, when he invents the epithet 'Hongkong of 'Happy hunting-ground of the fire fiend.' In the last case reported a fire raged for four hours and destroyed sixteen houses before its progress could be stayed by the united efforts of the local Fire Brigades. It is unnecessary to mark the depth when the sluices shall be opened. The water is now over eleven feet deep, which is only a few inches short of the depth when the sluices must be raised. Fortunately the velocity of the water flowing down is not as yet inordinately great, but the condition of affairs keeps Wu Taofan, the Superintendent of the Dam Committee, on the alert, and his subordinate officers and their staff, under control by wind or rain, are keeping a bright lookout from hour to hour over the respective sections committed to their charge, both day and night.

A rich American clergyman who is travelling round the world and writing a book about it, embarked lately on a steamer at Shanghai for Tientsin. He had found it difficult to embark, he had lost sight of two portmanteaus containing \$100 and about 10 volumes of manuscript. Search is being made for the third, but we do not know yet if the precious manuscripts have been recovered. In the little alleys about Ross's Place in Singapore and the cross passages as they often are in little cocklofts and wood and huts of flimsy construction, it may be in close connection with large and valuable buildings, situated with merchandise, constitute a most fertile source of fire outbreaks. Not long ago this very point was pressed by the Secretary of one of our leading Insurance Companies in a letter which appeared in these columns, in which he drew attention to the extreme risk attending this common practice. 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